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Sub-depot of Chingleput Wholesale Stores at Avadi.

* 130 *Q.*—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Chingleput Wholesale Stores maintain a Sub-depot in Avadi;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that large quantities of sugar were missing;

(*c*) whether any enquiry was held in the matter and how it was disposed off; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the missing sugar bags were written off as wastage and if so, how many bags were so written off?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" (*a*) There was a branch of the Chingleput Wholesale Co-operative Stores at Avadi. It was subsequently closed down. There is no branch of the stores at Avadi now.

" (*b*) No quantity of sugar was actually missing. Some irregularities in the distribution of sugar however noticed in July 1946 at the Avadi branch of the stores.

" (*c*) Investigation into the irregularities in the distribution of sugar was made by the officers of the Commercial Tax and Co-operative Departments. As investigation showed that the conduct of the godown keeper at Avadi branch was suspicious he was removed from service.

" (*d*) There is no information that any quantity was written off as wastage."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Settlement of labour disputes.

8. *Q.*—SRI P. R. K. SARMA:—Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) the general principles followed by Government in regard to the appointment of Adjudicators, Conciliators, and Courts of Enquiries in labour disputes; and

(*b*) whether the Government have any other schemes and plans for prompt and effective settlement of labour dispute and if so, what the schemes and plans are?

A.—(*a*) The general policy is to appoint officers of the status of District and Sessions Judges as Adjudicators, Conciliators and Courts of Enquiries.

(*b*) Yes, Sir. The most important proposals are—

(1) The Industrial Disputes Bill recently passed by the Central Assembly;

(2) The establishment of Wage Boards to fix minimum wages;

(3) The enforcement of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, the Workmen's Health Insurance Act, the Shops and Establishments Act and the Non-power Factories Act when the last three are enacted;

(4) The extension of welfare measures such as recreation centres, creches, housing schemes, etc.; and

(5) The strengthening of the present Conciliation staff.

Labour conditions in certain services.

9. *Q.*—SRI P. R. K. SARMA:—Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a Court of Enquiry has been appointed to enquire into labour conditions in the Motor Transport Services, oil-mills, rice-mills and other similar mills, automobile engineering factories, minor engineering concerns, foundries and make recommendations;

(*b*) what the scope of the enquiry, its terms of reference, etc., are;

(*c*) under what circumstances and under what law or rule the enquiry has been ordered;

(*d*) who constitute the said Court of Enquiry and whether any procedure has been laid down or will be laid down for its proceedings;

(*e*) whether the appointment of this Court of Enquiry will in any way affect any conciliations or negotiations now pending between trade unions and employers in the said industries; and

(*f*) whether any conciliation proceedings in any dispute have been stopped on account of the constitution or proposed constitution of the said Court of Enquiry and whether the Government have received any representations from any trade union in this connexion and, if so, what the Government propose to do with the representations?

A.—(*a*) Two Courts of Enquiry, one to enquire into the conditions of labour in motor transport services, motor transport workshops, engineering firms and type-foundries and the other to enquire into the conditions of labour in rice and oil-mills have been appointed.

(*b*) The object of the enquiries is to have a comprehensive picture of the conditions of service of the workers in these services and industries in the Province in order to standardize them as far as possible.

(*c*) Enquiries have been ordered under section 3 (*a*) read with section 4 (1) of the Trade Disputes Act on the report of the Commissioner of Labour that the conditions of the workers in these concerns are unsatisfactory.

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(d) Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, retired District and Sessions Judge, is the Court of Enquiry for motor transport services, motor transport workshops, engineering firms and type-foundries and Sri U. Ramappa, retired Judge of the City Civil Court, Madras, constitutes the Court of Enquiry for rice and oil-mills. The Courts have been asked to follow the procedure laid down in sections 5, 9, 11, 13 and 14 of the Trade Disputes Act and the rules issued by the Provincial Government under the Trade Disputes Act.

(e) & (f) No, Sir.

Strike notice by Public Works Department Workers' Union at Dowlaishwaram.

10. Q.—Sri P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Public Works Department Workers' Union at Dowlaishwaram (Rajahmundry) has issued a notice of strike demanding redress of definite grievances;

(b) whether the notice was withdrawn at the request of the Government and on an assurance to the President of the Union that the grievances will be redressed early;

(c) what action have the Government since taken in the matter; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the concerned workers have informed the Government that they would have to resort to direct action if their grievances are not immediately redressed and what the Government propose to do in the matter?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The notice of strike was withdrawn after Government informed the President of the Union that they were considering the various demands put forward by the Union and that orders would be issued as soon as a decision was arrived at and suggested that the workers might be advised not to resort to strike.

(c) The Government have called for a detailed report from the Chief Engineer (General, Buildings and Defence) and it is awaited.

(d) The notice of strike has not been renewed, but the President of the Union has been reminding the Government. The matter is receiving the special attention of the Government.

Sinking of wells.

11. Q.—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any fresh schemes for accelerating the sinking of wells has been formulated;

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(*b*) whether in framing it, the difficulties encountered in giving effect to previous schemes have been taken into account;

(*c*) whether the question of Government undertaking sinking of wells in areas where the response has not been encouraging has been considered; and

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to place the new scheme on the table of the House?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*d*) The Government have sanctioned a new well-subsidy scheme with effect from 1st March 1947, in supersession of the earlier schemes. In framing it, the difficulties encountered in the working of the earlier schemes were taken into account. Details of the scheme were announced in a Press Note [a], dated 3rd March 1947. They are laid on the table of the House.

(*c*) Judging from the number of applications received, the response from the ryots to the Accelerated Scheme was not particularly good in the districts of Tanjore, Malabar, South Kanara, Kistna, Guntur, East Godavari, West Godavari, Madras, and the Ceded districts. The subsidies given under this scheme were not attractive in the Ceded districts. Larger subsidies up to a maximum of Rs. 500 are now given in the Ceded districts. Under the new scheme, it is also proposed to raise the maximum subsidy for wells to Rs. 500 in other areas where conditions similar to those in the Ceded districts exist.

The Government have decided that it is not feasible for them to undertake the sinking of wells for ryots.

[*Note*.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce to the House that the following message, dated Fort St. George, 27th March 1947, has been received by me from the Hon. Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly :—

' In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules I transmit a copy of the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1947) as passed by the Assembly on the 27th March 1947 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.' "

IV.—DISCUSSION ON SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1946-47.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Discussion will now proceed on Supplementary Statements of Expenditure for 1946-47. May I know the number of intended speakers. We have to bear in mind that we have only one and a three-quarters hours before us." **11-45 a.m.**

(a) Printed as Appendix III on page 519-520 infra